



WASDOK

RELEASED FOR JANUARY 2009 BY THE
OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION OF PNG

EYE WITHIN

We join the Chief Ombudsman, Chronox Manek in welcoming each and everyone of you to “an industrious year 2009”. Certainly, it was very challenging for many of us in 2008 as we strived to maintain a reasonable level of conduct in the work of the Commission.

Significant milestones were achieved when we witnessed a smooth transitional period for the retired Chief Ombudsman, Ila Geno and welcomed the incumbent, Chronox Manek.

Earlier on the office of Counsel lost the services of Nemo Yalo, who was Counsel until his departure to take up a more demanding position in the legal fraternity as acting judge of the National Court.

We also bade farewell to former ERP director, John ToGuata who left to take up a senior position with the LJS Secretariat.

The Twinning program has advanced to new heights with two senior investigators taking attachments programs in Canberra, thanks to the efforts of CO’s Steve Ranck and OCPNG’s Ila Geno (retired).

All in all, we begin the year with a very strong but humorous remark from the Chief Ombudsman. Equally, similar sentiments have also been expressed by Ombudsman John Nero and Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari. The onus is now on us as workers of the Commission, regardless of the different levels of status accorded to us, we must show commitment by maintaining and upholding the integrity of this very important constitutional office.

To paraphrase the Chief Ombudsman again, we wish everyone an “industrious 2009”. Have a happy reading.

EDITORIAL

LET US ALL WORK TOWARDS A WORTHWHILE AND PROSPEROUS 2009—MANEK



*Chief Ombudsman
Chronox Manek OL*

The Chief Ombudsman, Chronox Manek began the first day of work into 2009 with the following encouraging remarks to the staff of the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea. “Welcome all after the Xmas and new year break. I trust it was refreshing. Thank you for your assistance last year and let us work towards a worthwhile and prosperous 2009 and no doubt we can do that with our God’s guidance. I wish you all a happy and industrious 2009”.

Right to demand your rights—Chief Ombudsman

The Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek says people should be empowered to demand their rights if duty bearers fail to meet their needs.

Mr. Manek was speaking during the 60th Anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR), a document that became the charter for a better life after the horrors of the second world-war for people all over the world.

He said, Papua New Guinea, as a member of the United Nations has pledged its commitment to see that the ideals that are set out in the UDHR are

realised by the people because they were noble ideals.

Mr. Manek said the importance of this day and of human rights were responsibilities that were bound up with human rights adding that rights and responsibilities were two sides of the same coin; one cannot go without the other.

“I would like to urge us all to be accountable to ourselves and to others. Duty-bearers have the duty to work towards the fulfilment of human rights. In terms of the rights enunciated under the UDHR, the

State is the ultimate duty bearer.

Where the duty bearers fail to attend to their duties due to neglect or for other reasons, rights-holders were entitled to demand these rights. This may be something new for us here in Papua New Guinea but we must all understand that without a demand for accountability, there will be no transparency and sometimes no effective realisation of human rights”, he added.

He said the demand for accountability was very much dependent on every one knowing what their

rights are, which not only calls for more awareness of human rights but also awareness of who the responsible duty bearers are.

He said demanding accountability from duty bearers will make them answerable for their actions and for the use and management of public funds adding to good and transparent governance.

The Chief Ombudsman said human rights were not only about what someone can provide for you and me but also about what is expected of you and I as individuals.



.. And the winner is... Congratulations to Timothy Wrumongo who won this delicious meat tray

From K2.00 tasol!

EMAIL TIPS ON OC LAN



By Alexia Luke

This is to refresh your memory and start you off on an uphill road to success on better email use.

Email or electronic mails as you know is the fastest growing communication tool used by businesses to communicate and exchange information. It finds its place as one of the leading tools in modern communication. The OC with no exception adopted the email system to effectively communicate internally with officers ranging from meeting requests to assigning tasks. We have used email for many purposes in the commission network with no fast rules applied.

As work load increases and demands more time, staff find themselves buried under a barrage of emails awaiting attention. A feeling of disquiet and frustration often creeps upon you when you find email in your mailbox was not expected or the message contained in the email had nothing to do with you. Admit it, we get annoyed and wished IT Unit disabled MS Outlook so we avoid all email

communication.

More problems have been reported to IT Unit in recent times and this email message will be a relief to those who have complained tirelessly on internal OC email system.

What we need is a few tips on correct use of internal Email?

1 The use of **REPLY ALL** button may be pressed **ONLY** if you need to respond to sender of email and those in CC box. Best practice; avoid hitting **REPLY ALL** button unless your response is intended for everyone who has a copy of the original email.

2 The use of distribution list **!All OC Head Office Staff** is restricted to Members of Commission and senior management comprised of *Secretary, Counsel, Directors CAIB, Leadership, R&ER, Senior Manager Support Services*. Exception given to *IT Manager*.

3 General practice, before pressing **SEND** button, ensure names listed in the **TO** box are

intended recipients of your message. Sending email unintentionally may create bad image for yourself, you could compromise security of confidential information if fallen into the wrong hands.

4 The increasing email messages will cause mail storage problem. IT Unit advises users to manage emails daily by emptying inbox. Good rule of thumb read and respond to email that can quickly be completed and deleted. Apply 2-minute rule, if a message requires a reply of 2 minutes or less, immediately answer then file the email or trash it. Ensure your response to intended recipients only when responding to emails.

The above tips will start you off on improving your email skills. Any comments or feedback should be directed to IT Manager. Please select **Reply NOT **Reply All** with your response.**



Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek speaking during a press conference while Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari listens attentively

Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek on 28 January 2009, called a press conference and announced that the Commission was filing a Supreme Court reference, Pursuant to Section 19 of the Constitution, questioning the validity of the recent amendments to the Organic Law on the Provincial Governments and Local Level Governments as members of the Provincial Assembly.

The Chief Ombudsman

explained that section 19 of the Constitution allowed a limited number of authorities including the Ombudsman Commission to seek from the Supreme Court a binding legal opinion on any questions relating to the interpretation or application of any provision of a Constitutional law.

Mr Manek said law makers have not made any attempts to look into this piece of legislation to make necessary changes

to accommodate the need for Local Level Government presidents to become members of the Provincial Assembly.

He said the Ombudsman Commission was seeking a Supreme Court redress on whether the amendments to section 10 of the Organic Law on Local Level Governments which also effectively remove presidents to be deputy governors offends section 187 of the Constitution, and the require-

ments of the National Goals and Directive Principles.

“We are calling on those interested persons or authorities with *locus standi* or legal standing to join in the reference as interveners, so that the Supreme Court is fully assisted as much as possible to come to a decision that will be a landmark decision on this issue of power sharing in Papua New Guinea,” Mr. Manek said.

OC SOCIAL CLUB FUNDRAISING EVERY FRIDAY 4-5

OCPNG LAUNCHES HIV/AIDS WORKPLACE POLICY

Chief Ombudsman, Chronox Manek, praised the brave effort of Margaret Marabe and thanked her for participating in the launching of the Ombudsman Commission's Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Manek said the onslaught of HIV/AIDS had reached epidemic proportions and the need for a coordinated approach in the management of the condition as well as the prevention of further infections should be an urgent priority for our nation.

"The ultimate responsibility of addressing HIV/AIDS in terms of resource allocation rests with the State as the primary duty bearer in providing for the promotion and protection

of human rights including an adequate standard of health care to address the agenda of the management and prevention of HIV/AIDS in our country," he added.

He said HIV/AIDS was an enemy that knows no boundaries and does not discriminate between the rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated, the rural and the urban.

Mr. Manek said the Commission was concerned with the effects that HIV/AIDS can have on its workforce but the very real potential of losing officers and of losing money and business productivity due to absenteeism, deaths, funerals, down time for officers providing care to those

affected in their families can have a drastic consequence to the effectiveness and the output of the Commission as an organisation.

"There are also other reasons why the Commission is obligated to have in place a Workplace Policy. This includes the fact that the Commission is one of the institutions that is vested with the mandate of addressing issues of "unlawful discrimination" under the HIV/AIDS Management and Prevention Act," he said.

He said as an agency within the Law and Justice Sector, the Ombudsman Commission was committed also to contribute together with the Sector to the National Strategic

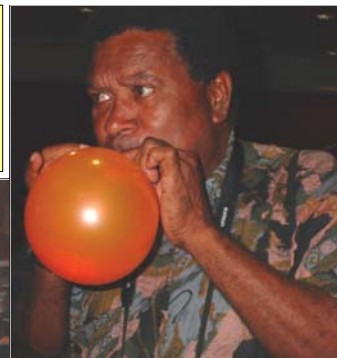


"Mi victim bilong man bilong mi. Mi save sindaun gut tasol emi save bikhet na go paol paol na givin mi dispela sik" says our surprised guest at the OCPNG HIV/AIDS policy launching, Margaret Marabe.

Plan for HIV/AIDS 2006-2010 through the components of Leadership and Prevention.



Top left: A/Secretary Allan Barilae gives the introductory remarks. Top right: HIV/AIDS victim Margaret Marabe. Mid: William Wiliando of the National also takes part.



Middle: Staff in full celebration mood. Bottom left: Chief cuts the ribbon with HIV/AIDS Secretariat Director Mr. Romalus. Bottom left: Ms Tesi Soi makes a presentation.



OC STAFF HARD AT TRAINING FOR THE 2009 LJS GAMES



Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea,
Ground Floor, Deloitte Tower, Douglas Street, PO Box
1831, Port Moresby 121, NCD, PAPUA NEW GUINEA,
Phone: 675-308-2600 Fax: 675-320-3260, Email:
ombudspng@ombudsman.gov.pg

All opinions, statements and writings contained in the *Wasdok* are those of the relevant authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions, statements, writings or views of the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea. The Commission issues no invitation to anyone to rely upon this newsletter and it intends by this statement to exclude liability for any such opinions, statements, writings and views.